and Narmada Sagar Project of Madhya Pradesh has been stalled due to the fact that Central Government have not accorded permission for use of forest land for the purpose of constructing these projects under Forest Conservation Act;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken for expediting the work on the above projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) to (c) The proposal for diversion of forest lands for Tons Hydel Project has been approved. The decision on proposals for diversion of forest land for the Indira Saroval (Bodhghat) and Narmada Sagar Projects will be taken on the avilable information, taking into account all environmental aspects. The State Government of Madhya Pradesh have not still submitted some essential information in regard to diversion of forest lands for the Ban Sagar Project. The decision on the diversion of forest lands for the Ban Sagar Project will be taken on receipt of the required information from the State Government.

News-item Optioned "Funds diversion .... cost fire service dear"

2273. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' of the 28th February, 1987 captioned "Funds diversion cost fire service dear";

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government propose to take to set matters right?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A grant of Rs. 11.83 crores spread over 2 years has been sanctioned for improvement of the Delhi Fire Service. This is to cover the purchase of equipments and appliances and setting up of 5 new fire stations and underground water static tanks.

(c) The grant of Rs. 5 crores has been released during the current financial year and the Delhi Fire Service have stated that this is being utilised for the specified purposes.

Implementation of laws for weak and underprivileged

2274. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any reply to the letters written by Central Government to State Governments concerning proper implementation of the laws for the weak and underprivileged especially of the laws like Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 and the Minimum Wage Act, 1948 has been received; and

(b) if so, the names of the States that have replied and the details of the action taken by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Dissemination of commercial information

2274. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether exporting community feels handicapped due to inadequate dissemination of commercial information; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) and (b) Export Promotion Councils, Commodity Boards, Federation of Indian Export Organisation, Trade Development Authority and such other organisations, which help in promoting country's export, disseminate in different ways, commercial information to the exporting community. The exporters are members of one or the other organisation and there is constant interaction between the organisations and exporters at regular intervals through meetings, seminars, workshops etc. The commercial information is fed to the exporting community through published literature, buyer-seller meets, sales delegations and other export promotion activities. Keeping pace with present day trend to develop computerised information some of the Councils are having their own and some are trying to create computer system for giving quick and ready made commercial information to the exporters. The Trade Development Authority is also working on a proposal to establish National Centre for Trade Information to collect, store, classify and disseminate information on various aspects of international trade.

Foreign tourists

2276. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to tate:

(a) what is the total number of foreign tourists who visited Khajuraho, Agra and Varanasi during the last three years;

(b) what were the earnings of the States and the Central Government on this account;

(c) whether any fresh initiative is being taken by the Central Government to give a boost to tourism in the country; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED): (a) As per the statistics provided by the State Government, the number of foreign tourists who visited Khajuraho during the last 3 years are as given below.

1983-84	22,529
1984-85	20,278
1985-86	15,900

Statistics of foreign tourists visiting Agra and Varanasi are not available.

(b) No estimates are available in this regard.

(c) and (d) The initiatives taken by the Union Government to boost tourism in the country include vigorous publicity campaigns in the overseas markets including consumer advertising through print and electronic media, introduction of promotional and incentive schemes like "India on the House" and "Affordable India" development of infrastructural facilities in the tourist centres, etc.

Pollution in river Narmada

2277. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that river Narmada is getting highly polluted because of the setting up of various types of industries on her banks;

(b) whether some funds will be made available as were given for cleaning of river Ganga, to the Madhya Pradesh Government to clean Narmada river; and

(c) if so, what other steps, if any, are being taken by Government to keep Narmada free from pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Stretches of the river